

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application. Additions are identified by underlining. Deletions are indicated by ~~striketrough~~ or ~~[[double brackets]]~~.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein transmitting to the user the second instant message comprises:
 - determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and
 - transmitting to the user the second instant message.
3. (Currently Amended) A method for managing communication devices associated with a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communication manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, the method performed by the unified communication manager comprising:
 - receiving a first instant message from a user through a real-time communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service and containing at least a request to set one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt to at least one of the communication devices;
 - setting the one or more rules based on information in the first instant message; and
 - transmitting to the user, through the real-time communication channel, a second instant message containing a notification indicating the setting of the one or more rules of the at least one communication device;

~~The method of claim 1,~~ wherein setting the one or more rules comprises

 - modifying the one or more rules based on the information in the first instant message;

storing the modified one or more rules in a storage in the data network and accessible to the unified communication manager; and

transmitting information based on the modified one or more rules to a control point in the voice network.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for managing communication devices associated with a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communication manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, the method performed by the unified communication manager comprising:

receiving a first instant message from a user through a real-time communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service and containing at least a request to set one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt to at least one of the communication devices;

setting the one or more rules based on information in the first instant message; and
transmitting to the user, through the real-time communication channel, a second instant message containing a notification indicating the setting of the one or more rules of the at least one communication device;

~~The method of claim 1,~~ wherein setting the one or more rules comprises
modifying the one or more rules based on the information in the first instant message;
storing the modified one or more rules in the data network and accessible by the unified communication manager.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 7 [[5]], wherein transmitting to the user the second instant message comprises:

determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and

transmitting to the user the second instant message.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium capable of configuring a computer to perform a method of managing communication devices associated with a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communications manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, the method performed by the unified communication manager comprising:

receiving a first instant message from a user through a real-time communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service and containing at least a request to set one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt to at least one of the communication devices;

setting the one or more rules based on information in the first instant message; and
transmitting to the user, through the real-time communication channel, a second instant message containing a notification indicating the setting of the one or more rules;

~~The computer readable medium of claim 5,~~ wherein setting the one or more rules comprises

modifying the one or more rules based on the information in the first instant message;

storing the modified one or more rules in a storage in the data network and accessible to the unified communication manager; and

transmitting information based on the modified one or more rules to the voice network.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium capable of configuring a computer to perform a method of managing communication devices associated with a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communications manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, the method performed by the unified communication manager comprising:

receiving a first instant message from a user through a real-time communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service and containing at least a request to set one or

more rules for responding to a communication attempt to at least one of the communication devices;

_____ setting the one or more rules based on information in the first instant message; and
_____ transmitting to the user, through the real-time communication channel, a second instant message containing a notification indicating the setting of the one or more rules;

~~The computer readable medium of claim 5~~, wherein setting the one or more rules comprises

_____ modifying the one or more rules based on the information in the first instant message; and

_____ storing the modified one or more rules in a storage in the data network and accessible to the unified communication manager.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11 [[9]], wherein the means for transmitting to the user the second instant message comprises:

_____ means for determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and

_____ means for transmitting to the user the second instant message.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for managing communication devices associated with a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communication manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, the unified communication manager comprising:

_____ means for receiving a first instant message from a user through a real-time communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service and containing at least a request to set one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt to at least one of the communication devices;

_____ means for setting the one or more rules based on information in the first instant message;
and

means for transmitting to the user, through the real-time communication channel, a second instant message containing a notification indicating the setting of the one or more rules;

~~The apparatus of claim 9,~~ wherein the means for setting the one or more rules is configured to

modify the one or more rules based on the information in the first instant message;

store the modified one or more rules in a storage in the data network and accessible to the unified communication manager; and

transmit information based on the modified one or more rules to the voice network.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for managing communication devices associated with a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communication manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, the unified communication manager comprising:

means for receiving a first instant message from a user through a real-time communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service and containing at least a request to set one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt to at least one of the communication devices;

means for setting the one or more rules based on information in the first instant message;
and

means for transmitting to the user, through the real-time communication channel, a second instant message containing a notification indicating the setting of the one or more rules;

~~The apparatus of claim 9,~~ wherein the means for setting the one or more rules is configured to

modify the one or more rules based on the information in the first instant message; and

store the modified one or more rules in a storage in the data network and accessible to the unified communication manager.

13.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 [[1]], further comprising:
downloading to at least one of the communications devices associated with the user code for interfacing with the at least one unified communications manager.

17.-31. (Cancelled)

32. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein transmitting to the user the second instant message comprises:

determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and
transmitting to the user the second instant message.

33. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein transmitting to the user the second instant message comprises:

determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and
transmitting to the user the second instant message.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the means for transmitting to the user the second instant message comprises:

means for determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and
means for transmitting to the user the second instant message.

35. (New) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

downloading to at least one of the communications devices associated with the user code for interfacing with the at least one unified communications manager.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

means for downloading to at least one of the communications devices associated with the user code for interfacing with the at least one unified communications manager.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:

means for downloading to at least one of the communications devices associated with the user code for interfacing with the at least one unified communications manager.

38. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises:

downloading to at least one of the communications devices associated with the user code for interfacing with the at least one unified communications manager.

39. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises:

downloading to at least one of the communications devices associated with the user code for interfacing with the at least one unified communications manager.